

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5036

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRA, EEWT, GE
SUBJ: GDR INTEREST IN PROLONGED STAYS BY TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 306333 (NOTAL)

1. CHARGE CALLED ON DIRECTOR GENERAL KIRSTEN AT
FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY DECEMBER 23 TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE
OF REFTEL IN ABSENCE OF EMBASSY'S ECON/COMM
OFFICER, ASKING THAT GDR SUPPLY DETAILED INFORMATION
ABOUT PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF GDR TECHNICIANS. AT THIS
MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT GDR WOULD REPORT BACK WITH
FULL INFORMATION. ECON/COMM OFFICER WAS CALLED TO
FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH SCHMIED OF FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY
JANUARY 7.

2. SCHMIED SAID THE GDR SERVICE ENGINEERS WOULD HAVE THE
FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- SERVICE OF IN-PLACE MACHINERY;
- PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVISE TO END USERS;
- TRAINING OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND SUB-
AGENTS IN USE OF GDR MACHINERY PRODUCTS; INCLUDING
PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NEW GDR PRODUCTS AND DESIGNS,
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- PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON IN-PLACE GDR EQUIPMENT.

3. SCHMIED SAID GDR CONTEMPLATES STATIONING THESE
PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON, WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS COULD BE
PART OF GDR COMMUNITY THERE. THEY WOULD HAVE NO OFFICE
IN THE EMBASSY, AND WOULD NOT BE SALES REPRESENTATIVES
EMPOWERED TO CONCLUDE CONTRACTS.

4. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE HAD REPORTED GDR'S INITIAL PRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WOULD REPORT THE PRESENT ONE. RECENT ACTIONS BY THE GDR, HOWEVER, WHICH HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF STATEMENT BY USG AND THE ALLIES, MIGHT HAVE AFFECTED THE WILLINGNESS OF US OFFICIALS WORKING ON GERMAN AFFAIRS TO ACCOMMODATE THE GDR DESIRES WHICH MR. FRIEDRICH HAD RAISED IN DECEMBER. EAST GERMANS THEN ASKED IF IT IS THE CASE THAT THE EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACT IF AN APPLICATION WERE SENT IN THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS, TO WHICH EMBOFF REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

5. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: EMBASSY DID NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO GO TO A MEETING WITH GDR OFFICIALS THE MORNING AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE ALLIED STATEMENT ON THE EAST GERMAN MEASURES AND CONDUCT BUSINESS AS USUAL, ESPECIALLY BUSINESS INVOLVING US EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE GDR NEEDS. WE DEFER TO JUDGEMENT OF OFFICIALS WORKING ON BERLIN POLICY, BUT SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO LET GDR SERVICE ENGINEERS COOL THEIR HEELS A WHILE AS A REMINDER THAT THE GDR HAS A BILATERAL STAKE IN BEHAVING ITSELF ON BERLIN MATTERS.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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